

10/581163

AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 31 MAY 2006

S/N Unknown

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|             |   |                 |                |
|-------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Applicant:  | VELTRI et al.   | Examiner:       | Unknown        |
| Serial No.: | Unknown   | Group Art Unit: | Unknown        |
| Filed:      | Herewith  | Docket No.:     | 07587.0287USWO |
| Title:      | A METHOD AND DEVICE FOR THE SURFACE TREATMENT OF A METAL SUBSTRATE, AND CORRESPONDING PRODUCT |                 |                |

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 628409065 US  
Date of Deposit: 31 May 2006

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop: PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

By:   
Name: John Linkers

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the International Search Report. At least some of the references were recently cited in an International Search Report mailed 15 March 2005.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

A copy of any foreign patent document or "Other Document" listed on the Form 1449 is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). Because this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided.

10/581163

AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 31 MAY 2006

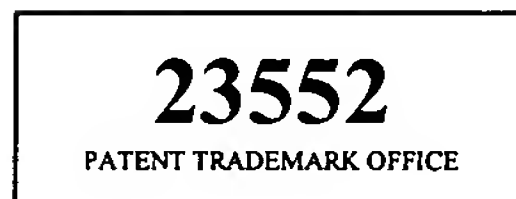
No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.


Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300



Dated: 31 May 2006

By   
Gregory A. Sebald  
Reg. No. 33,280

GAS/cjc

|   |                                  |  |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>FORM 1449*</b><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b><br><br><b>IN AN APPLICATION</b><br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | Docket Number:<br>07587.0287USWO | Application Number:<br>Unknown <b>581163</b> |
|   | Applicant: VELTRI et al.         |  |
|   | Filing Date: Herewith            | Group Art Unit: Unknown                      |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |              |        |              |       |          |                               |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------|--------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL   | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE   | NAME         | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |
|                       | US 4,051,044 | 9/1977 | Sorensen     |       |          |                               |
|                       | US 3,451,871 | 6/1969 | Bauer et al. |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |        |              |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |        |              |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |        |              |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |        |              |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |        |              |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |        |              |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |        |              |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |        |              |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |        |              |       |          |                               |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |              |        |               |       |          |             |    |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------|---------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|                          | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE   | COUNTRY       | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|                          |              |        |               |       |          | YES         | NO |
|                          | GB 1 315 540 | 5/1973 | Great Britain |       |          |             |    |
|                          |              |        |               |       |          |             |    |
|                          |              |        |               |       |          |             |    |
|                          |              |        |               |       |          |             |    |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| EXAMINER  | DATE CONSIDERED |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant. |                 |